

Hungary - Maria Theresa R

T

17346

PRECIS

OF SUCH PARTS OF THE

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE YEAR 1741,

As relate to certain Negotiations

BETWEEN THE

QUEEN of HUNGARY

AND THE

KING of PRUSSIA.

1800.



1800

P R E C I S

OF such Parts of the OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE of the Year 1741, as relate to certain Negotiations between the Queen of HUNGARY and the King of PRUSSIA.

ON the 17th of December, 1740, (the Day after the Prussian Troops entered Silesia) Count Gotter arrived at Vienna from the King of Prussia, with the Offer of his Endeavours to bring about a Grand Alliance between himself, the Maritime Powers, and Russia, for the Support of the House of Austria, and for procuring the Imperial Crown to the Great Duke. In Return he demanded the entire Cession, in Perpetuity, of all Silesia; but Count Gotter owned to Mr. Robinson (His Majesty's Minister at Vienna) that he was authorized to conclude for the Mortgage only of a Town or two in that Dutchy, with their Districts. This Proposal was rejected by the Queen of Hungary, who refused to treat at all while the Prussian Troops were in her Dominions. On the 1st of January following, Count Gotter and Baron Borke renewed the Overture on the Part of the King of Prussia at Vienna, and offered, in Addition to the former Proposals, Two Millions of Florins, and their Master's Guaranty of the Austrian Possessions in Germany, in Return for "the entire Cession of all Silesia," or (as it was modified a few Days after) "a good Part of it." This Negotiation also was cut short by the Refusal of the Court of Vienna to listen to any Cession whatever in Silesia: And the Queen of Hungary made the strongest Requisitions to His Majesty and the States General for the Succours due to her by Treaty, as the only Means of reducing the King of Prussia to Reason. In the mean Time the King of Prussia applied to His Majesty to engage the Queen of Hun- Whitehall,
15 March,

1740, several
Dispatches
from Mr.
Robinson to
Lord Har-
rington.

Vienna, 4th
Jan. 1741,
Mr. Robin-
son to Lord
Harrington.

1741, Lord Harrington to Mr. Robinson. gary to accede to his Demands, which, on this Occasion, he specified to be; Lower Silesia and the Town of Breslaw, to be yielded to him, either by Way of Mortgage, or otherwise, in Lieu of his Pretensions to several Districts in that Dutchy.

Whitehall, Feb. 13th Lord Harrington to Mr. Robinson.

On the first Invasion of Silesia His Majesty had directed Mr. Trevor, His Minister at the Hague, to concert with the Dutch Government a joint Representation to the King of Prussia, dissuading him from the Prosecution of his Enterprize; to be followed, if necessary, by the Execution of the common Guaranty. It was at the same Time to be insinuated to the King of Prussia, that on his relinquishing his Claims on Silesia, Advantages might be obtained for him in other Parts. Notice was given of this Step to the Court of Vienna, together with Assurances, that on the Failure of the Representation, His Majesty would concert with the other Guarantees the best Mode of fulfilling their Engagements. The present Application from Prussia for His Majesty's Mediation was also notified to the Queen of Hungary; but the King contented himself with referring the Demands of Prussia to the Consideration of that Court, without offering any Advice on the Subject.

Whitehall, 15th March, 1741, Lord Harrington to Mr. Robinson.

March 1st 1741, Lord Hyndford's private Instructions and March 10th.

Whitehall, 17th April, Lord Harrington to Lord Hyndford.

Vienna, 29th April, 1741, Mr. Robinson. Memorial, dated 24 Apr.

Intelligence was, however, soon received in England of the Design of France to support the Elector of Bavaria's Views on the Imperial Crown, and on the late Emperor's Succession; and of a Treaty on Foot between France and Prussia for supporting the Claims of the latter on Silesia. On the other Hand, there was found to be little Prospect of obtaining the speedy Consent of the States General to the proposed Concert, or of the Co-operation of the other Guarantees of the Austrian Succession. It was thought advisable, therefore, in stating these Circumstances to the Queen of Hungary, to recommend it to her to secure the King of Prussia at all Events; and, if better Terms could not be obtained, to close with him on his own. Lord Hyndford was at the same Time sent into Silesia to dispose the King of Prussia to be as moderate as possible, and to obtain his Ultimatum. The first Accounts from Vienna and from the King of Prussia were very unsatisfactory. The Queen of Hungary, deceived by the Professions of Cardinal Fleury that France had no Intention of entering into the War, "à moins que d'y être forcée," gave little Credit to the Information of the real Designs of that Power, rejected all Idea of Dismemberment, and renewed her Applications for the

stipulated Succours. The King of Prussia, on being requested by Lord Breslaw, ^{May 13, 1741} Hyndford to state the Terms on which he would come to an Adjustment with the Queen of Hungary, named all Lower Silesia, and the Town of Breslaw, and added, "the Queen may think herself happy to escape so well, for you see it is in my Power to make myself Master of all Silesia, and next of Moravia; but notwithstanding my Victories I will still be reasonable." Although Lord Hyndford was not able, either in Conversation or in Writing, to obtain from the King of Prussia any Ultimatum short of these Demands, yet in communicating the Result of this Overture to Mr. Robinson, he expressed an Opinion that if any Proposals were insinuated on the Part of the Queen of Hungary, the King of Prussia "would abate a good Deal of his Demands". Mr. Robinson availed himself of this Hint, and although he could obtain no formal Authority from the Court of Vienna to make a specific Proposal, he acquainted His Majesty's Ministers in England, that he had collected with sufficient Certainty from confidential Conversations, that if the King of Prussia would content himself with the Mortgage of Schwibus, Lords Grunberg, and Glogaw, and would intimate such Intention to the Queen of Hungary, a Treaty might be immediately concluded. In consequence, Lord Hyndford was instructed to propose these Terms to the King of Prussia, in His Majesty's Name, as a common Friend to both Parties; and in case of Failure to hint His Majesty's Readiness to use His Endeavours with the Court of Vienna for obtaining "a Stipulation in the King of Prussia's Favour with Regard to some Part of the Succession of Berg and Juliers."

Lord Hyndford having made these Proposals to the King of Prussia at Breslaw, his Camp near Grotkau, the King told him the Offer was very considerable in Proportion to his just Pretensions. At the Beginning of the War he would have been contented with what was now offered; but after such Expence, after having gained a Battle, (that of Molwitz) the Offer of ONE Dutchy was too little, (for he looked on Schwibus and Grunberg as Parts of Glogaw). On Lord Hyndford's referring the Matter to his Magnanimity, he interrupted him: "My Lord, do not tell me of Magnanimity, a Prince ought to consult his Interest in the first Place; I am not against Peace, but I expect to have Four Dutchies." Monsieur Podewils (the King of Prussia's Minister) explained afterwards to Lord Hyndford, that under the Head of three Dutchies de-

Breslaw, 17 June, 1741, Lord Hyndford to Lord Harrington.

Breslaw, 17 June, 1741, Lord Hyndford to Lord Harrington.

1741. manded in Addition to Glogaw, were included, Wohlau, Lignitz, Schweidnitz, and Jawer ; this last being considered by the King as Part of Schweidnitz. The King further demanded, through Monsieur Podewils, that Breslaw should be declared a free Imperial City, and that its whole Territory should be rendered independent of Austria. On Lord Hyndford's hinting to Monsieur Podewils the Proposal respecting Berg and Juliers, he was answered, that the King had at that Time no Views that

Hanover, 21 June; Lord Harrington to Mr. Robinson. Way, but expected that Justice should be done him in Silesia. In consequence of these Demands, Mr. Robinson was instructed to endeavour to obtain from the Court of Vienna Authority to offer some further Cession in Silesia, in Addition to Glogaw, and, in case of Success, to proceed with it in Person to the King of Prussia ; and the Intelligence which

Hanover, 24 June; Lord Harrington to Mr. Robinson. was just then received in England, and transmitted to Vienna, of a Treaty between France and Prussia having been actually signed previous to Lord Hyndford's last Interview with the King of Prussia, furnished the strongest Motives to engage the Court of Vienna to make such further Concession, before the Treaty could be ratified, as might tempt a Monarch of the King of Prussia's Character to withdraw himself from his new Alliance : But neither this Intelligence, nor that of the Signature of a Treaty between Spain and Bavaria for a joint Attack on the Dominions of Austria, could induce that Court to make such Concession. The Queen of Hungary made a formal Requisition to His Majesty and the States General to take the Field against the King of Prussia ; and Mr. Robinson learned from a Member of the Cabinet of Vienna, on whom he could rely, that the Opinion which most prevailed there (subject to the Approbation of the Maritime Powers, or if only connived at by His Britannick Majesty) was that which gave the Low Countries to the Elector of Bavaria, in Exchange for the Tract in Bavaria which lies between Upper Austria and the River Inn. On Mr. Robinson's applying for Authority to treat on Behalf of the Queen with Prussia, a dictated Paper was delivered to him, in which the Offer of Glogaw, as made by Lord Hyndford, was in Effect disavowed ; all Idea of Cession in Silesia was disclaimed by the Queen, but it was added, " La Reine n'est pas éloignée de racheter la Paix avec la Prusse par un " Sacrifice du côté des pays Bays Autrichiens." As, however, Mr. Robinson was not authorized to make any specific Offer, even in this Quarter, and as on the whole the Court of Vienna discouraged his Journey, he transmitted the dictated Paper to England, whence it was forwarded

Hanover, 25 June, Lord Harrington to Duke of Newcastle.

Hanover, 5 July, Lord Harrington to Mr. Robinson.

Hague, 9 June, Mr. Trevor to Lord Harrington.

Vienna, 27 June, Mr. Robinson.

Reponse à dicter à Monsieur Robinson. 4 July.

to Lord Hyndford with Instructions. In these it is said "The King Hanover, 13 July, Lord Harrington to Lord Hyndford.
 " does not pretend to form any Judgment himself on the Contents of this new Proposal, but must leave it to His Prussian Majesty to consider how far the new Conditions there offered may be satisfactory; but in case he will in general agree to take an Equivalent on the Side of Flanders and the Rhine, in Lieu of his Demands on Silesia, although the particular Countries are not clearly specified, the King is persuaded of being able to accommodate such Equivalent to the King of Prussia's particular Views and Interests, even with Regard to his Pretensions on Berg and Juliers, wherein he may depend on His Majesty's Concurrence likewise". Lord Hyndford was further empowered to offer, if necessary, the King's good Offices for engaging the Queen of Hungary to renew the Offer of Glogaw, in Addition to the Advantages proposed to Prussia on the Side of Flanders. On Lord Hyndford's communicating the dictated Paper to the King of Prussia at his Camp at Strelen, the King called it a silly, weak and impertinent Answer; After many satirical Remarks, he asked, how he was to understand it, for the Court of Vienna talked in such general Terms of this Equivalent, that it looked only like a Design to amuse him. On the mention of Juliers and Berg, the King said, "if the Court of Vienna think to amuse me with that they are mistaken." Lord Hyndford explained that this was not their Intention, but that if His Majesty accepted of an Equivalent in that Quarter, adjacent to Juliers and Berg, it might be a Mean of hereafter coming at those Countries likewise. Lord Hyndford adds, "the King seemed to be pretty well pleased, and asked, what he was to do in this Case. I told him that, if he agreed to these Proposals in general, he was to make a Demand equivalent to his Pretensions in Silesia. He then said, with a Smile, if I am to make a Demand, I will ask enough, for I will have all Brabant, Flanders, and the High Guelders; in short all that the House of Austria possesses in that Part of the World, and I will keep the Lower Silesia till I am put in Possession of the other: These are my Demands, and I desire you will make them known. I said His Prussian Majesty had indeed demanded enough, and what would be looked upon as more than an Equivalent to his Pretensions in Silesia, but that I should make a faithful Report to the King my Master.---Upon the Whole he seemed to relish this new Proposal extremely, and, by what I can learn from him and his Minister, he expects that the Court of Vienna should explain Breslaw, 24 July, Lord Hyndford to Mr. Robin-son.

1741. " itself, and make a specific Offer in the Austrian Netherlands of an
 " Equivalent to the Four Dutchies in Silesia ; and I am persuaded on
 " these Terms the Queen of Hungary may make her Peace with him."

Hanover, 30 July, Lord Harrington to Duke of Newcastle. When the Account of this Conversation was received at Hanover, where His Majesty then was, the Earl of Harrington wrote to the Duke of Newcastle in England ; that although the Demand of all Austrian Flanders was probably made by the King of Prussia only to gain Time, yet, considering the little Regard the Court of Vienna had always shewn towards those Countries, it might not be entirely rejected ; that the King wished, therefore, to receive, provisionally, the Opinion of his Servants, how far it would be advisable for His Majesty to acquiesce in such a Scheme, if it could be brought to take Effect. The Opinion of the Cabinet Ministers in England, as transmitted by the Duke of Newcastle in Whitehall, Answer, was as follows : " If what is proposed with Regard to the King 11 August ; Duke New- castle to Ld. Harrington. " of Prussia's having what the late Emperor possessed in the Low Countries can be brought about, and the Dutch be induced to agree to it, we do not see in the present Circumstances, and considering the great Danger of those Countries falling into the Hands of France, any Reason for His Majesty not acquiescing in it."

Hanover, 30 July, Lord Harrington to Mr. Trevor. At the same Time Mr. Trevor was instructed to ascertain the private Sentiments of the Pensionary and Greffier of the States General, with respect to this Demand of Prussia, and how they imagined such a Scheme would be relished in Holland ; but he was to let it be understood explicitly that the Notion of it was not as yet at all encouraged by the King.

Hague, 5 August. Ditto 11. Mr. Trevor. The Dutch Ministers both exclaimed, that this would be a most violent and dangerous Remedy for the Republic ; a total Subversion of the System of the Barrier Treaty, and (which seemed to be their greatest Objection) would surround the Republic with the Possessions of the House of Brandenbourg on all Sides, except the Sea. They dwelt on the Impolicy of thus aggrandizing the House of Brandenbourg, especially under its actual Head, or of putting any Maritime Places into the Hands of a Prince capable of making so bad Use of them, as well as of the Scheldt, and other Rivers of the Netherlands. The Acquiescence of the States in such a Project was doubtful, and the Necessity of consulting them would excite the Suspicions of France, who would prevent the Blow before it could be struck. These, however, were rather the Sen-

timents of the Greffier than of the Pensionary ; the latter appeared, on Mr. Trevor's renewing the Conversation, to have turned the Subject in his Thoughts, and considered Prussia as a safer Neighbour than France, if it should become necessary to make an Option between them. He thought, however, these Conditions necessary : First, that in order to keep the Scheldt shut, the Dutch should keep Possession of Dendermond, and of the Forts on that River, and either of the Town or Citadel of Antwerp : Secondly, that in order to preserve the Communication with Maestricht, the Dutch should be allowed to garrison Ruremond : The Prohibition of all Navigation to the Indies to be confirmed ; that of the Meuse to be rendered more practicable and sure ; the King of Prussia to forego his Pretensions to East Friesland ; and to sell or yield them Ravenstein. On the Whole, however, Mr. Trevor was of Opinion, that if there were any Thoughts of carrying the Cession of Flanders into Execution, it should be done by Surprize, at the Risque of the Dutch Government representing it afterwards ; for if previously consulted they would probably disapprove, but most certainly would divulge it. In fact the Dutch Government (whom the King of Prussia had taken Care to apprise of the Cession proposed to him) shewed great Uneasiness at the Intelligence ; and it was thought necessary to instruct Mr. Trevor to remove their Jealousy by Assurances, " that the King did never so much as give any direct Assent thereto, though in the Extremity to which the Queen of Hungary's Affairs and those of all Europe were reduced, His Majesty could not have refused to acquiesce in her throwing out Temptations, even of that Kind, to the King of Prussia.

Mr. Robinson, in communicating to the Court of Vienna what had passed in Lord Hyndford's last Interview with the King of Prussia, suppressed all Mention of the Demand made by him of the whole Austrian Netherlands, and delivered a Paper in which the King of Prussia was only made to complain of the vague Terms in which the Offer " du côté des Pays Bas Autrichiens" was worded ; and to express his Apprehension that the Court of Vienna sought only to amuse him. It was added, that Lord Hyndford construed it to be the Wish of His Prussian Majesty, that a specific Offer should be made by the Court of Vienna of an Equivalent in the Austrian Low Countries for the Four Dutchies of Silesia. After frequent Debates in the Austrian Cabinet, and great Re- pugnance on the Part of the Queen to violate the Oath she had taken to

Hague, 14
August, Mr.
Trevor.

Hanover, 18
August,
Lord Har-
rington to
Mr. Trevor.

Presburg, 29
July, Mr.
Robinson.

Presburg, 30
July, Mr.
Robinson.

3741.

Inclosures
in above.Breslaw, 9
August, Mr.
Robinson.

the States of Brabant, never to alienate any Part of that Country, two Papers were delivered to Mr. Robinson. In the First, the Queen consented to cede Austrian Guelderland in Perpetuity ; to renounce all Pretensions to pecuniary Indemnification from Prussia, and to pay that Monarch a Sum of Money as the Condition of his retiring out of Silesia. She demanded, in Return, the Vote of Prussia in Favour of the Great Duke, and of her own Claims to the Vote and Rights of Elector in Right of Bohemia ; and that the King of Prussia should accede to the Defensive Treaties of 1731 and 1732, on the same Footing as the Queen and His Britannick Majesty already stood in that Respect. In the Second Paper, Mr. Robinson was authorized, on Failure of these Proposals, and in the last Extremity only, to offer the Dutchy of Limburg, in Form of Mortgage, but not redeemable. Mr. Robinson, who had been instructed by Lord Harrington, in case of any more acceptable Proposals being intrusted to him by the Court of Vienna, to repair to the King of Prussia, was the Bearer of these Papers, and arrived at Breslaw the 3d of August. On the 7th of that Month he accompanied Lord Hyndford to the King of Prussia's Camp at Strelen. Mr. Robinson assigned His Prussian Majesty's Dissatisfaction at the dictated Paper of the 4th of July, as the Reason for his having delayed his Journey to Strelen ; on which the King interrupted him, " Il étoit bien impertinent que ce Papier-là." On Mr. Robinson's expressing his Hope that the Substance, the Plan, the Tendency had not been so disagreeable to His Majesty ; " Me don- " nera-t-on," he replied hastily, " tous les Pays Bas Autrichiens ? that " was my Demand." When Mr. Robinson spoke of the Offer of Two Millions of Florins as the Condition of the King's retiring out of Silesia ; " On me prend donc, my Lord, pour un Gueux," said the King, turning to Lord Hyndford ; he added, with theatrical Gesticalations, and Marks of great Anger, " Non, Monsieur, non, il ne faut pas y penser ; " si vous n'avez rien de meilleur, il ne vaut pas la peine d'en parler. " Voyons pourtant ce qui en est de plus." Mr. Robinson then brought forward the Offer of Austrian Guelderland : The King, turning to Monsieur Podewils, said, " Qu'est ce qui nous reste de toute la Gueldres ?" The other answered, " Rien quasi :" The King said, " Voici en- " core des Gueuseries ; Quoi ! une bicoque pour toutes mes justes " Pretensions en Silesie !" and appeared so indignant, that Mr. Robinson hastened to add the Offer of Limburg ; expatiated on its Revenue, on the Importance that had always been attached to

it, and called it the "Pierre d'attente à la prochaine Acquisition de Bergues et de Juliers." The King interrupted him by expressing his Astonishment that the House of Austria could think of violating the solemn Engagements of the Barrier Treaty, which rendered every Inch of the Low Countries inalienable: He added, that he had no Desire to aggrandize himself in those Parts which were useless to him, nor to offend the French and Dutch, as he certainly should, by any such unlawful Acquisitions. On Mr. Robinson's hinting that the extreme Distress of the Queen must at last bring forward the true Friends of the House of Austria, and of the Liberties of Europe. "Qui donc, Monsieur, qui sont "ils ceux là?" Mr. Robinson mentioned Russia; "Beau beau, Monsieur; the Russians! it is not proper for me to explain myself, but "I have Means for them." Mr. Robinson observed that Russia was not the only Power that had Engagements, and must keep them with the House of Austria; so that however averse such Powers might be to a Breach----The King cut him short, applying his finger to his nose, and crying out, "Point de menaces, Monsieur, s'il vous plait, point de "menaces." "Sire, Je ne dis point ce que feront les autres, mais ce "qui se fera de soi même. Je dis ce qui ne peut qu'arriver; ce "ne sont pas là des Menaces. My Zeal for the Public brought me "hither." "Le Public, Monsieur," replied the King, "vous en "aura beaucoup d'Obligation; mais attendez: Pour la Russie vous "savez ce qui en est; pour le Roi de Pologne Je n'en ai rien a crain- "dre; et pour Le Roi d'Angleterre, Il est mon Parent, Il est mon "tout. S'il ne m'attaque pas, Je ne L'attaquerai pas assurément; "s'il m'attaque, Le Prince d'Anhalt en aura soin." He threw out, from Time to Time, Hints of the Advantageousness of his present Situation, at the Head of a powerful, and, (in the Manner he spoke of it) an invincible Army, with the Country conquered behind him, which was the only Object of his Views, which he would,----which he must have,---which he would not be bought out of,---which alone suited his Convenience; "Ou Je me laisserai écraser moi et toutes mes Troupes. "With what Face shall I meet my Ancestors if I abandoned the Rights "they have transmitted down to me? With what Reputation can I live "if I quitted lightly an Enterprize, the first of my Reign, which I be- "gan with Reflection, have carried on with Firmness, and must main- "tain to the last Extremity? Have I Occasion for Peace? Let those "who want it give me what I ask, or let them fight me again, and

1741.

" again be beaten.----Have they not given whole Kingdoms to Spain, " and cannot they spare me a few trifling Principalities?"---The King appeared at one Moment to waver, by asking if the Dutch were acquainted with the Proposal, for that they ought to be consulted in Form, and that General Ginckel should be sent for. Mr. Robinson replied, that the Delay and Danger of consulting the States General had prevented the taking of this Step; that it was sufficient to know the Sentiments of the principal Persons; and that if there were any Hopes of His Prussian Majesty's Compliance, Mr. Robinson would immediately inform himself from Hanover whether the Sentiments of those Persons had been ascertained; but the King of Prussia would not engage his Word, nor give any Appearance of his acquiescing in any Equivalent whatever on the Side of the Low Countries. " As the Court of Vienna had rejected " his Demand of the Four Dutchies, he now revoked it, and would " adhere to that of all Lower Silesia, with the Town of Breslaw; and if " the Queen did not satisfy him in Six Weeks, he would add Four " Dutchies more to his Demands."---Lord Hyndford, in this Extremity, offered His Majesty's Intervention for procuring from the Queen the Dutchy of Glogaw, in Addition to the Cessions in Flanders; but he rejected it with the utmost Indignation; insisting constantly upon all Lower Silesia; said he was sick of Ultimatums; he would hear no more of them: His Party was taken. On this Mr. Robinson said, in a composed, firm, and decent Manner, your Majesty's final Answer with which I am to return is then to have all Lower Silesia, with Breslaw? Yes, he answered. Mr. Robinson repeated the Question: He again said " Yes; that is my Answer, and I never will give any other." " But, Sire, if instead of going back with that Answer, I could once " more, and for the last Time, humbly desire your Majesty to combine " what at different Times has seemed to have been obtained of the Court " of Vienna, and would suffer Monsieur Podewils and us to minute it " down?" " Messieurs, Messieurs, c'est inutile que d'y penser seule- " lement;" and taking off his Hat, he retired precipitately behind the Curtain of his Tent.

The little Apprehension which the King of Prussia expressed in this Mr Trevor's Conversation of the Interference of the Friends of the House of Austria Dispatches from 6 Jan. passim. was justified by the Event. Although the Concert proposed by Mr. Trevor at the Hague had at first been greatly encouraged by the Ministers

and principal Members of the Dutch Government, it met with great ^{Hague, 14} Delays from the Opposition of some ill disposed Persons, and from the ^{Feb. Mr. Trevor.} tedious Forms of the Government. In order to obtain the Consent of a ^{Whitehall,} Majority of the Provinces to the proposed Representation to Prussia, the ^{5 Feb. Lord Harrington} original Projet had undergone so many Modifications that it had lost all ^{to Mr. Trevor.} its efficacy. All Expressions which bore the Appearance of Intimidation were dropped, and the proposed Indemnification was confined to Silesia. ^{Breslaw, 11} In this State it was presented to the King of Prussia by Lord Hyndford ^{June; Lord Hyndford.} and General Ginckel, on the Day of Lord Hyndford's first Conversation with the King at Grotkau. The Dutch Government, harrassed by internal Divisions, and fearful of exposing its defenceless Frontiers to the French and Prussian Armies now on foot in its Neighbourhood, appeared desirous only of preserving a Neutrality, and the Ministers of France and Prussia maintained them in these Dispositions. They offered, indeed, to perform their strict Engagements with the Queen of Hungary, by furnishing their Quota, at her Desire, in Money instead of Troops; but even this could not be executed, through the Dissent of some of the Provinces. The Court of Petersburgh, when applied to by His Majesty as joint Guarantee of the Austrian Succession, expressed the strongest Determination to act in Conjunction with the King in Support of their Engagements; but the Intrigues of France and Prussia succeeded in creating a Diversion on the Side of Sweden, which involved the Court of Petersburgh in a War with that Power. At first, also, the Dispositions of the Court of Saxony had appeared very favorable to the Queen of Hungary; and a Treaty was actually signed between them by the Intervention of His Majesty: But the Court of Vienna, through its Negotiations with Prussia should be known, and in the mean Time the Dispositions of the King of Poland were altered, and he concluded an Agreement with the Allies for a Share of the Austrian Succession.

^{Hague, 26}
^{June; Mr. Trevor.}
^{Hague, 4}
^{August; Mr. Trevor.}
^{Hague, 24}
^{June; Mr. Trevor.}
^{Hague, 12}
^{Dec. Mr. Trevor.}
^{Do. 29 Dec.}
^{Hanover, 20}
^{AugLdHarrington to Mr. Trevor.}
^{Dresden, 9}
^{July; Mr. Villiers.}
^{Dresden, 16}
^{Sept. Mr. Villiers.}
^{Hanover, 9}
^{Oct. LdHarrington to D. of Newcastle}

When Mr. Robinson returned to Vienna, and reported the ill Success of his Mission to the King of Prussia, he offered at the same Time (in case of his being authorized to make the proposed Cessions in Silesia) to return to His Prussian Majesty, and endeavour to obtain from him the Extension of the Prussian Guaranty to all the Dominions of Austria; the including of the Court of Saxony in the Treaty offered by Prussia; and the Cession of the Prussian Fiefs in Lusatia to the King of Poland,

^{Presburg, 24}
^{August; Mr. Robinson.}
^{Presburg, 24}
^{August; Mr. Robinson.}

1741. as an Inducement to him to acquiesce in the Sacrifice of Silesia. A Projet of Convention was in consequence intrusted to Mr. Robinson, in which these Demands were included; but in which, notwithstanding Mr. Robinson's representations, the proposed Cession was confined within a Line beginning at Griffenberg, carried on by the North Side of the Town of Lignitz, cutting the Town of Wohlau, and finishing at Odeluw on the Borders of Poland; and this only by Way of Mortgage. Mr. Robinson being invested with full Powers from the Court of Vienna to conclude on these Terms, returned to Breslaw on the 29th of August, and communicated the Projet to Monsieur Podewils. But he soon discovered the Truth of what Monsieur Podewils told him on his Arrival; "that he was come too late." The King refused to see him, and declared himself surprized and irritated that Mr. Robinson had presumed to come to him with so injurious, so dishonorable, and so insidious a Projet. The drawing a Line was laying down the Law to him, and the Proposal itself had no other Object than to commit him with France. He affected to believe that Mr. Robinson's Journey was disapproved of by his own Court, and threatened to complain there if Mr. Robinson did not immediately return to Vienna. He might acquaint the Queen of Hungary that all further Negotiation on the Ground of Mr. Robinson's Interference was broken off, but that if she had any] farther Offers to make, they might be transmitted by Mr. Robinson to Lord Hyndford.

Presburg, 8 Sept. Mr. Robinson. Presburg, 8 Sept. Mr. Robinson to Lord Hyndford. In Mr. Robinson's to Lord Hyndford of 8 September.

Mr. Robinson returned to Vienna on the 6th of September, and on the 8th dispatched full Powers from the Court of Vienna to Lord Hyndford, together with an amended Projet delivered to him by the Austrian Ministers, in which the Demand of Lower Silesia and Breslaw was acceded to, with the Exception of a small District to the North of the Town of Neisse; in Compensation for which it was proposed to take the River Brinitz from the Oder to Poland as the Boundary on that Side. The Cession before demanded by the Queen of the Fiefs in Lusatia for the King of Poland, was omitted in consequence of Monsieur Podewil's Intimation that His Prussian Majesty would never hear of it; and it was stipulated that the Troops to be furnished to the Queen by Prussia should not be required to act against the Elector of Bavaria.

Breslaw, 6 Sept. Lord Hyndford. Do. 9 Sept.

In the mean Time, and within a few Days after Mr. Robinson's Departure from Breslaw, Lord Hyndford had sounded some Persons in the King of Prussia's Confidence, whether he would hearken to a Neutrality

with the Queen of Hungary, in Return for Lower Silesia and Breslaw.

Through One of these Persons (Monsieur Marwitz) he was informed that

the King had agreed to this last Trial, though he could not appear in it, Breslaw, 9

Sept. Lord
Hyndford.

and if it should be known he must deny it absolutely. Monsieur Marwitz then dictated to Lord Hyndford from a Paper which he refused to shew, as follows : " Toute la Basse Silésie ; la Rivière de Neisse pour " limite ; la Ville de Neisse à nous, aussi bien que Glatz ; de l'autre " côté de l'Oder, les anciens Limites entre les Duchés de Brieg et d'Op- " pelin ; Namslau à nous ; les Affaires de Religion in statu quo. Point " de Dépendance de la Bohême ; cession éternelle."

" En échange, nous n'irons pas plus loin. Nous assiégerons Neisse " pro formâ. Le Commandant se rendra, et sortira. Nous prendrons " les Quartiers tranquillement, et ils pourront mener leur Armée où ils " voudront. Que tout cela soit fini en douze Jours." These Proposals were immediately transmitted to the Court of Vienna, whom the actual March of the French and Bavarians had thrown into the greatest Consternation. The Answer of the King of Prussia to the Austrian Projet of the 8th of September, contained in a Letter to Lord Hyndford, arrived at this Time, and increased their Apprehensions. The King, speaking of that Projet, says, " Je le trouve ausse chimérique que le premier, et vous n'avez " qu'à répondre à la Cour de Vienne, que l'Electeur de Bavière sera Em- " pereur, et que mes Engagemens avec le Roi Très-Chrétien et l'Elec- " teur de Bavière sont si solennels, et si inviolables, que je ne quitterai " point ces Fidèles Alliés, pour entrer en liaison avec une Cour qui ne " peut être, et ne sera jamais qu'irréconciliable envers moi : Qu'il n'est " plus tems de la secourir, et qu'Elle doit se résoudre à subir toute la " rigueur de sa Destinée. Je vous prie de ne me plus fatiguer par de " pareilles Propositions, et de me croire assez honnête Homme pour " ne Point violer mes Engagemens."

Breslaw, 16
Sept. Lord
Hyndford to
Lord Har-
rington, in-
closing Let-
ter from
King of
Prussia of 14
September.

The secret Propositions having arrived at Vienna in the Midst of these Alarms, the Queen agreed to cede in perpetuity all Lower Silesia to the River of Neisse, in Return for the bare Neutrality of Prussia ; but hoped the King would not insist on the Towns of Neisse and Glatz. Marshal Neipperg, who was then in Garrison at Neisse, before which Place the King of Prussia was encamped, was authorized on the Part of the Queen to treat on this footing ; and after several Explanations in Writing, the King of Prussia, Lord Hyndford, and Marshal Neipperg met on the

D

Presburg, 15
Sept. Mr.
Robinson to
Lord Hynd-
ford, incloses
Projet de
Réponse of
same Date.
Neisse, 4
Oct. Lord
Hyndford to
Lord Har-
rington.

1741. 9th of October at the Castle of Klein Schnellendorff, a short Distance
 Breslaw, 14 from Neisse, where, upon the King's refusing to give any Thing under
 Oct. Lord his Hand, for fear of offending France, Lord Hyndford alone signed
 Hyndford. the Terms agreed upon between the King and Marshal Neipperg, and
 presented an attested Copy to each of them; at the same Time the King
 of Prussia directed Lord Hyndford to write to the Court of Vienna to
 prepare a Treaty for Signature on the 24th of December, in Conformity
 to the Convention then settled; and to apprise the Queen of Hungary
 that unless the Negotiation was kept an entire Secret, the King, though
 in a better Disposition than ever towards her, could do nothing in her
 Favour. The Terms of the Convention, as signed by Lord Hyndford,
 were the same with those which had been secretly communicated by
 Monsieur Marwitz, except that no Mention was made of the Demand of
 Glatz.

Grassau, 10 This Overture on the Part of the King of Prussia had been encou-
 Oct. Lord raged by Lord Hyndford without particular Instructions from England.
 Hyndford. His Intervention was approved of by His Majesty, but Doubts were ex-
 pressed of the King of Prussia's Sincerity. In Fact, the Queen of Hun-
 gary soon found that she had purchased, at a dear Rate, the bare Re-
 treat of Marshal Neipperg. Neisse was surrendered to the Prussian
 Troops, in conformity to the Convention; the Counties of Glatz and
 Lintzburg, 1 Konings Gratz were over-run, and Upper Silesia laid under heavy Contri-
 14 Sept Ld. November. butions. But these, and other Infractions of the promised Neutrality, were
 Harrington Do. 11 Nov. either passed over, or complained of in the most moderate Terms by the
 to Lord Do. 19 Nov. Queen of Hungary, who carefully avoided giving the King of Prussia
 Hyndford. son. any plausible Pretext for breaking off the Treaty. At the same Time
 Presburg, 1 the Project of a Definitive Treaty, conformable to the Agreement of the 9th
 Oct. Mr. Robinson to of October, was transmitted from Vienna to Marshal Neipperg; and
 Lord Hynd- Baron Gillern was sent to Troppau to conduct the Negotiation jointly
 ford. Mémoire de with Lord Hyndford, and with Instructions to conform himself to the
 la Cour de King of Prussia's Wishes with respect to the Form and Manner of the
 Vienne, 5 Negotiation.

Breslaw, 12 In the mean Time the King of Prussia had, on the 8th of November,
 Nov. Lord signed his Accession to the Treaty between Saxony and Bavaria; and the
 Hyndford. taking of Prague on the 25th of the same Month contributed to secure
 Breslaw, 5 him on the Side of the Allies. He now began to express more loudly the
 Dec. Lord Hyndford.

Complaints which he had insinuated to Lord Hyndford ever since the Breslaw, 21 Oct. Lord
 9th of October, that the Court of Vienna had not observed the Secrecy Hyndford.
 required relative to the Transactions of that Day. He insisted, at first, Breslaw, 23 Oct. Lord
 that the Queen of Hungary should order her Ministers at all Foreign Hyndford to
 Courts to contradict the Report of a Treaty being on foot; and when Mr. Robin-
 Lord Hyndford, at a later Period, pressed the King to explain himself on son.
 the subject of the Treaty, he always declined it, under Pretence that the Berlin, 9 Dec. Lord
 secret had been divulged. At length, on the 16th of December, the Hyndford.
 King of Prussia sent One of his Privy Councillors to acquaint Lord Berlin, 16 Dec. Lord
 Hyndford, "that as he could not find it in his Heart to communi- Hyndford.
 "cate such bad News in Person, he adopted that Method of no-
 "tifying to him, that in consequence of the Court of Vienna's hav-
 "ing divulged the Secret of the Negotiation, and having tried to form
 "Alliances against him, he no longer thought himself bound by any
 "Thing that had passed in Silesia, but felt himself obliged to make
 "good his Engagements with France and the Rest of his Allies." The
 Prussian Troops, after seizing Troppau, had marched into Moravia. On
 the News being received at Vienna, a hasty additional Credential was dis-
 patched to Lord Hyndford, in which (by Way of explaining a passage Vienna, 23
 in the Queen's Instructions to him, "Qu'il y aurait différens Moyens December.
 "d'assurer au Roi de Prusse de nouveaux Avantages considérables, sans
 "que la Reine ni sa Maison n'y perdisse rien") he was authorized to
 offer the Cession of the Queen's Rights in Lusatia, and also to take such
 Engagements as His Britannick Majesty should judge proper, with re- Berlin, 27
 gard to Berg and Juliers; but it was now too late. Dec. Lord
 Hyndford.

Although the King of Prussia affected so much indignation against
 the Court of Vienna for having divulged the transaction of the 9th of
 October, it appears, from Mr. Trevor's Dispatches, that the Prussian Hague, 31
 Minister at the Hague, whilst he was delivering frequent Rescripts from October.
 his Master, in which the existence of any Accommodation was formally Do. 14 Nov
 denied, took care privately to have it understood that he himself believed Mr. Trevor.
 in the Reality of it. Mr. Robinson affirms that the King of Prussia had Presburgh,
 written to his Agent at Venice, that he was in close Negotiation with 18 Oct. to
 the Queen of Hungary, and that he did not doubt of concluding the Lord Hynd-
 ford Peace, so as to dance at the following Carnival at Venice. Lord Hyndford.

The Conduct of the King of Prussia in the whole of this Negotiation Berlin, 26
 is explained by his own Language. On Lord Hyndford's presenting a Dec. Lord
 Hyndford.

1741.

Molwitz, 12
Mai.

a Memorial from the Court of Vienna, written in very moving Terms
 he said, "Voyez vous, Milord, je vous parle naturellement : ils ont fait
 " une autre sottise de se laisser prendre la Ville de Prague à leur barbe,
 " et de ne pas risquer une autre Bataille. S'ils avoient été heureux,
 " Je ne sais pas ce que j'aurois fait." And in a Letter from the King to
 Monsieur Podewils, which was intercepted by the Hussars of Marshal
 " Neipperg, is the following Passage, "Conserver le Rôle d'honnête
 " Homme avec des fourbes est chose bien perilleuse : Etre fin avec des
 " Trompeurs est un parti désespéré, dont la réussite est fort equivoque ;
 " que faire donc ? La Guerre et la Negotiation ; voila justement ce que
 " fait votre très humble Serviteur et son Ministre. S'il y a à gagner à
 " être honnête Homme, nous le serons, et s'il faut duper, soyons donc
 " fourbes."

Subjoined is the King of PRUSSIA'S own Account of the same Negotiations.

Oeuvres
 Posthumes
 de Frederic
 Second, Ber-
 lin, 1788,
 Vol. I.
 Page 171 et
 sequent.

Ce n'etoit pas à la France seule que se bornoient les Negotiations des Prussiens. Elles s'étendoient en Hollande, en Angleterre, et par toute l'Europe. Sur quelques Propositions qui avoient été jettées dans une Lettre que le Roi avoit écrite au Roi d'Angleterre, ce Prince avoit répondû, que ses Engagemens l'obligeoient à la Vérité à soutenir l'indivisibilité de la Succession de Charles VI. et qu'il voyoit avec peine la rupture de la bonne Intelligence entre les Prussiens et les Autrichiens ; qu'il offroit cependant volontiers ses bons Offices pour moyenner une reconciliation entre ces deux Cours : Il envoya le Lord Hindfort comme Ministre d'Angleterre, et le Sieur Schwichelt comme Ministre de Hanovre. L'Anglois offroit les bons Offices de son Maitre pour engager la Reine de Hongrie à la Cession de quelques Principautés de la basse Silesie. On éluda d'entrer sur ces Points dans une Negotiation formelle avant d'etre préalablement instruit des Dispositions où se trouvoit la Cour de Vienne. Ces Anglois et ces Hanovriens qui flattent le Roi dans son Camp ne vouloient que L'endormir : Ils n'agissoient pas de même dans les autres Cours de l'Europe. En Russie, Finch, Ministre Anglois, y souffloit la Guerre. Le Prince de Bronswic, Général en Chef de la Russie, poussé par sa Grand'mere, par L'Imperatrice Douairière, et par ces Ministres Etrangères qui étoient autant de Boute-feux, alloit incessamment engager la Russie à déclarer la Guerre à la Prusse. Les Troupes s'assembloient déjà en Livonie ; le Roi en étoit informé, et c'est ce qui

lui inspiroit de la méfiance pour les Anglois dont il decouvoit la duplicité. Leurs intrigues avoient également extorqué du Grand Pensionnaire de Hollande une Lettre exhortatoire pour engager le Roi à retirer ses Troupes de la Silésie. Toutes ces Machinations des Anglois, et surtout ce qu'on prévoyoit en Russie determinèrent enfin Le Roi à signer son Traité avec la France.

La Reine de Hongrie commençoit enfin à voir le Peril qui la menaçait. La peur abattit sa fierté. Elle dépêcha le Sieur Robinson, qui étoit Ministre à sa Cour de la Part du Roi d'Angleterre, pour essayer quelques Propositions d'Accommodement. Ce Robinson, prenant le Ton de hauteur, dit au Roi que la Reine vouloit bien oublier le passé ; qu'Elle lui offroit le Limbourg, la Gueldre Espagnole, et deux Millions d'Ecus en dedommagement de ses Pretensions sur la Silésie, à Condition qu'il fit la Paix, et que ses Troupes évacuassent incessamment ce Duché. Ce Ministre étoit une espèce d'Enthousiaste à l'égard de la Reine de Hongrie : Il négociait avec l'Emphase dont il auroit harangué dans la Chambre basse. Le Roi asséz enclin à saisir les ridicules, prit le même ton, et lui répondit. " Que c'est à des Princes sans Honneur à vendre leurs Droits pour de l'Argent ; que ces Offres lui étoient plus injurieuses que n'avoit été la mesprisable hauteur de la Cour de Vienne, et haussant le Ton, mon Armée, dit il, me trouveroit indigne de la commander si je perdois par un Traité flétrissant les Avantages qu'Elle m'a procurés par des Actions de valeur qui l'immortalisent. Sachez de plus que je ne puis abandonner sans la plus noire Ingratitude mes nouveaux Sujets, tous ces Protestans qui m'ont appellé par leurs vœux. Voulez vous que je les livre comme des victimes à la tyrannie de leurs persécuteurs, qui les sacrifieroient à leur vengeance ? Ah comment démentirai-je en un seul jour les Sentimens d'honneur et de probité avec lesquels je suis né ? Et si j'étois capable d'une action aussi lâche, aussi infâme, je croirois voir sortir Mes Ancêtres de leurs Tombes : " Non, " me diroient ils, " Tu n'es plus notre Sang, tu dois combattre pour les Droits que nous t'avons transmis, et tu les vends ! Tu souilles l'Honneur que nous t'avons laissée comme la partie la plus précieuse de notre Héritage ; indigne d'être Prince, d'être Roi, tu n'es qu'un infâme Marchand qui préfere la Gain à la Gloire. Non jamais je ne mériterais de tels Reproches ; je me laisserai ensevelir moi

“ et mon Armée sous les Ruines de la Silesie plutôt que de permettre
“ que l’Honneur et la Gloire du Nom Prussien reçoive la moindre Tache.
“ C’est la seule Reponse Monsieur que je puisse vous donner.” Robinson fut étourdi de ce Discours auquel il ne s’attendoit pas. Il retourna le porter à Vienne. Mais en renvoyant le fanatique, le Roi continuoit à flatter le Lord Hyndford, et à l’endormir dans une parfaite Sécurité: Il n’etoit pas encore tems de se decouvrir. Et pour me nager les Puissances Maritimes, on leur communiqua les Propositions de Robinson; on excusa le Roi sur son refus, en alleguant, que sachant que le Traité de Barrière lioit les Mains à la Reine de Hongrie, On n’avoit pas accepté les Cessions qu’elle vouloit faire du Limbourg et de la Gueldre: Ce fut surtout en Hollande qu’on appuya beaucoup sur la déférence que le Roi marquoit pour les Interêts de cette République, déférence qu’Il pousseroit jusqu’à refuser le Brabant même, si on vouloit le lui Offrir. Ce fut environ alors que la Prusse signa Son Traité avec la Bavière. Elle lui promit sa Voix à la Diète d’Election. Ces deux Princes se garantirent mutuellement l’un la Silesie à la Prusse, l’Autre la Haute Autriche, le Tyrol, le Brisgau, et la Bohême à la Bavière. Le Roi acheta de cet Electeur la Principauté de Glatz au Prix de Quatre Cens Mille Ecus, et le Bavarois la vendit sans l’avoir jamais possedée. Mais un des événemens les plus avantageux et les plus decisifs qui arrivèrent alors éclata dans le Nord: La Suède déclara la Guerre à la Russie, et detruisit par cette diversion tous les desseins du Roi d’Angleterre

La Cour de Vienne qui ne pouvoit plus compter sur la diversion des Russes, pressée d’ailleurs de tous cotés, renvoya dans le Camp Prussien son Negoçiateur Anglois. Il y apporta une Carte de la Silésie où la Cession de Quatre Principautés etoit marquée d’un trait Encre; il fut froidement reçu et on lui donna à connoître que ce qui peut être bon dans un Tems ne l’est plus dans un autre.

Les orages qui ménacoient la Maison d’Autriche et les dangers qui déve noient plus pressans de jour en jour firent enfin résoudre sérieusement la Reine de Hongrie à se debarrasser d’un de ses Ennemis pour rompre la Ligue formidable qui alloit l’accabler. Elle demanda sérieusement la Paix, elle ne chicana plus sur la Ville de Breslau, elle insista seulement pour conserver celle de Neisse. Le Lord Hindfort qui negocioit alors en son Nom pretendoit que le Roi, en faveur d’aussi grandes Cessions

assistât la Reine de Hongrie de toutes ses forces. Le Roi lui répondit qu'il étoit fâché de se trouver dans la Nécessité de rejeter ces Offres, mais qu'il ne pouvoit pas violer la foi des Traités qu'il venoit de signer avec la France et la Bavière.

Le Roi d'Angleterre voulut travailler tout de bon à moyenner la Paix entre le Roi de Prusse et la Reine de Hongrie. En conséquence de cette résolution, le Lord Hindfort se rendit au Camp Autrichien ; de là il fit des rémontrances si fortes à la Cour de Vienne, il la pressa avec tant d'énergie, en lui exposant que pour sauver le reste de ses Etats il falloit savoir en perdre à propos une partie, que cette Cour consentit à la Cession de la Silésie, de la Ville de Neisse, et d'une lisière en Haute Silesie, en rénonçant à toute assistance contre des Ennemis. Le Roi qui connoissoit la duplicité des Anglois et des Autrichiens prit ces Offres pour des pièges. Et pour ne point se laisser amuser par de belles paroles qui l'auroient rétenu oisif dans son Camp, il déroba une marche à l'Ennemi.

Peut-être que ces différentes Manœuvres accélérèrent la Negociation du Lord Hindfort. Il vint avertir le Roi que sa Negociation avoit si bien réussi que Monsieur de Neuberg étoit prêt d'abandonner la Silésie, pourvu que le Roi lui déclarât verbalement qu'il n'entreprendroit rien contre la Reine. Les Ennemis se contentoient d'un pourparler qui valoit des Provinces à l'Etat, et des Quartiers d'hyver tranquilles aux Troupes fatiguées de onze Mois d'opérations : la tentation étoit forte. Le Roi voulut essayer ce qui pouvoit résulter de cette Conference. Il se rendit secrètement, accompagné du seul Colonel Goltz, à Oberschnellendorff, où il trouva le Maréchal Neuberg, le Général Len tulus le Lord Hindfort. Ce ne fut pas sans reflexion que ce Prince fit cette démarche. Quoiqu'il eût quelque sujet de se plaindre de la France, ces mécontentemens n'étoient pas assez forts pour rompre avec elle ; il connoissoit par son expérience les dispositions de la Cour de Vienne. Il n'en pouvoit rien attendre d'amiable ; il étoit clair que la Reine de Hongrie ne se prêtoit à cette Convention que pour sémer la méfiance entre les Alliés en l'ébruitant ; il falloit donc exiger des Autrichiens, comme une Condition sine quâ non, que s'ils divulguoient le moins du monde les Conditions dont on conviendroit, ce seroit autoriser le Roi à rompre cette Convention. Le Roi étoit bien sûr que cela ne manqueroit pas d'arriver. Le Lord Hindfort tint le protocole au Nom de son Maitre. On convint que Neisse ne seroit assiégée que pour la forme, que les Troupes Prussiennes ne seroient point inquiétées dans

les Quartiers qu'elles prendroient en Silésie comme en Bohême, et surtout que sans le secret le plus rigide, tout ce qu'on venoit de régler seroit nul de toute nullité.

L'événement justifia bientôt ce que le Roi avoit prévu de l'indiscretion de la Cour de Vienne. Elle divulgua le pretendu Traité avec la Prusse en Saxe, en Bavière, à Francfort sur le Mein, et partout où elle avoit des Emissaires.

Cette Conduite de la Cour de Vienne degageoit le Roi de tous ses Engagemens.


